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Western Michigan University Commencement Exercises-12pm

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Saturday, December 15, 2012

John M. Dunn, President, Presiding

PROCESSIONAL

The Western Brass Ensemble
Steve Wolfenbarger, Conductor

President Dunn: "Good afternoon, I am John Dunn, president of Western Michigan University.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire University community I want to welcome you to our three hundred and sixth (306th) commencement ceremony.

Will the audience please stand, as able, for the National Anthem, sung by the Brothers of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia conducted by Andrew Miller."

(President Dunn steps away from the microphone)

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia
Andrew Miller, Conductor

WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

President Dunn:

“Commencement is a very special occasion - a time for celebration, a time for reflection, a time for closure, and a time for new beginnings.

Graduates, I applaud and thank you for attending today’s event. Your presence allows us to recognize you and, equally important, to permit expressions of happiness, pride, and love which are so evident in the faces of those gathered here to observe you graduate.

Graduates, this is YOUR day! You have only two responsibilities: 1) to enjoy the day and allow us to honor you and; 2) to reflect and say thanks to those---and you know best who they are---who have contributed to your academic, professional and personal development.

The latter first---the THANKS part. Graduates, please stand as able and those in front of me, turn and face the audience and remain standing.

Would the Moms and Dads in the audience please stand?

How about the Grandparents? And Great Grandparents?

Spouses, special partners, and children?

Brothers and Sisters? Aunts, Uncles and other Relatives? And, Friends?

This day is a very special day for you, our graduates, and it is my privilege and honor to preside at your commencement.

You will join alumni from all over Michigan and from around the world.

We shall award over **1900** degrees today.

Almost **1500** of you will receive bachelor's degrees.

More than **430** will receive master's and specialist’s degrees.

And **38** of you will be receiving doctoral degrees.

Besides our honored graduates, the next group that deserves recognition is our faculty. They are the very heart of this University. Their intellect, creativity and passion for teaching and research inspire each of us. Their faith and confidence in your abilities throughout your college years have built the foundation for your professional future. Therefore, it is to our faculty that we express special appreciation today. I ask the faculty members to stand and all of you to please join me in applauding them for the fine education they have provided to you!

Besides your professors, there have been many, many others on this campus who have protected, encouraged, facilitated, and brightened the academic journey that has led you to this moment of celebration. They are the cooks, the custodians, office personnel, medical staff, police officers, landscape crews...the list goes on and on. They give their all, every day, to make your educational experience at WMU what you deserve: the BEST. Although many of these fine people are not in attendance, I would like to recognize them with a round of applause.

Let me now turn to my other colleagues on the stage and I ask each of them to rise as I mention them by category.

They are the executive officers, deans and chairs of the University; our partners in shared governance: representatives of the Faculty Senate; the University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors; the Administrative Professional Association; the Professional Support Staff Organization; and the Alumni Association.

Our University is governed by an autonomous Board of Trustees, appointed by the governor of the State of Michigan. The trustees are private citizens who serve the University without remuneration and who set policy direction for the campus. The University is very grateful to these men and women. Representing the Board of Trustees at this ceremony are Chair Bill Johnston, Trustees Mary Asmonga-Knapp, Ken Miller, Larry Tolbert and

Trustee Emerita Maury Reed whose son Theo is one of this afternoon's graduates.

Also joining us today is the Director of Protocol of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Radahames [Ra-da-MAZE] De los Santos, whose son receives his degree this afternoon.

At this time, I would like to recognize those of you who are graduating with honors. Will those with honor cords and all honorary society members, please rise so that we can recognize the special distinctions you have earned.

Western Michigan University is truly an international institution. We enthusiastically welcome students from other lands and we encourage all other students to experience a portion of their learning in one of our many study abroad locations around the globe. Will those students who were participants in one of our fine study abroad programs and all our international students please stand and be recognized.

I now ask Board Chair Bill Johnston to share with you some Western Michigan University "Points of Pride" that will remind you of how special this university truly is."

(President Dunn to his seat and Chair Johnston to the podium.)

Chair Johnston: WMU POINTS OF PRIDE

"Graduates, you and your families should be proud of what you've accomplished. You've successfully completed your degree programs and will leave this auditorium today as WMU alumni. All of us here on the stage share your families' pride and look forward to seeing you succeed as you move on to the next passages in your lives.

Today's graduates come from an array of backgrounds and they will go on to diverse post-graduate roles. The stories that brought our graduates here today are tales of personal accomplishment and proud supporting families and friends. I could share hundreds of wonderful stories about all of today's grads, but there isn't time to do them justice. So instead, I'll take this time to relate the kind of information our graduates can share as they start their careers, head for graduate school or take a short break to reconnoiter the terrain and plan for the next step.

Too often, we take it for granted that you all know the truly special points of pride about Western Michigan University. I want to take a few moments, one last time before you graduate, to remind you of some of things that you can talk about whenever someone asks about your University.

Let's start with the basics. Graduates, you are about to become alumni of one of the country's top public universities. In a nation that has more than 4,000 colleges and universities, your alma mater is one of fewer than 200 schools designated a research university by the Carnegie Foundation classification that is the nation's gold standard when it comes to defining higher education.

For those in the audience who wonder what the practical implications of that level of quality might be, let me explain it to you this way. If there were ever a bracketed competition pitting colleges and universities against one another in the academic arena, this University would be in the "Final Four" every year for individual programs in each of our colleges--arts and sciences, aviation, business, education, engineering and applied sciences, fine arts and health and human services.

All of you graduating today will now take your place among a proud group of more than 180,000 living WMU alumni worldwide. More than 121,000 WMU graduates live in Michigan, but there's not a state or territory in the nation that is missing the Bronco touch. And no matter where you travel in the world, you should not be surprised to encounter a fellow alum.

So who else will be joining our alumni base today? I'm going to describe just some of them in a way that tells you something I hope you remember about your university.

- Let's start with an important group we always need to acknowledge--our veterans. There are 46 veterans who will graduate today. We're proud of the service our graduates and their fellow veterans have given our nation and enormously proud that they chose WMU to prepare for their futures. Today's graduating veterans have been awarded red, white and blue honor cords to signify their service to our country. Please join me in offering a round of applause to express our gratitude for their service.
- Today we'll award doctoral degrees in 19 different disciplines. That means that during this academic year we're on track to once again award well in excess of 100 doctoral degrees.
- Graduating today are 45 members of the Lee Honors College. The Lee Honors College is one of the nation's oldest collegiate honors programs and boasts a student profile that is similar or even more impressive than that of students attending the most elite private colleges in the United States.
- Today's graduates include nine members of Phi Beta Kappa--that's a designation they share with 17 U.S. presidents, 38 current Supreme Court justices and 136 Nobel laureates. Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest and most prestigious academic honor society in the nation. Just 100 public universities in America have been authorized to shelter a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, and Western Michigan University is one of them.
- Western Michigan University is an international university with students from 95 nations. Our graduates today come from countries that include China, Saudi Arabia, Poland, the Dominican Republic and India. Families have traveled from around the globe to be here today to celebrate their students' achievements.

We pride ourselves on being learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged. Great people and programs--our points of pride--define Western Michigan University. We'll keep adding to them in the coming years, and with each new quality marker, the value of the already-valuable

degree you hold will only increase. We intend to share these Points of Pride every chance we get, because we know that the more people know about Western Michigan University, the more likely they are to recognize what an incredibly valuable asset WMU is for the state and nation.

Telling our story works. I invite you to remember and share all of these facts liberally as you move into your professional life. I also ask that you remember that these facts were made possible through the work of our faculty and through your efforts as well. I urge you to continue building WMU's reputation in your chosen field. Starting today, you're a Bronco alum--one of our new points of pride. What you accomplish will reflect positively on your family, your community and your university. We look forward to following your progress, and we plan on boasting about your success in life for many years to come. Congratulations. You already make us proud."

(President Dunn to the podium)

President Dunn: "Graduates, we are indeed proud of all of you. You have demonstrated the determination and commitment to achieve what we celebrate here today. Many of you held down jobs working long hours while being full- or part-time students. And what is important, you finished, you accomplished your goal.

A great number of you are international students who have studied far away from your home and family for many years. Some of your parents have traveled half way around the world to be here with you today. As you journey back to your home countries, you have our best wishes and the hope that you take fond memories of Michigan and your University with you.

And many of our graduates are non-traditional students with spouses and job obligations and for

whom being a student came after family and work. We have great admiration for your achievements.

While you have worked hard we hope that you have also enjoyed your time here at the University. For many of you, this has been your first experience away from home. So while you have learned much from your course work, we are sure that you have also learned much about life and living.

We hope that the many friendships you have formed will stand the test of time and that you will include among them associations that you have made with our faculty and staff. For just as we have been an important part of your life, you too have become a part of ours.”

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

President Dunn: “Provost Greene, please come forward for the conferring of degrees.”

(Provost Greene joins President Dunn at podium.)

Provost Greene: “Will those receiving a Doctoral or Master's Degree please rise, as able.

President Dunn, it is my pleasure to present these candidates who have completed all the requirements for a Doctoral or Master's Degree as prescribed by the graduate faculty of this University.”

President Dunn: "By the authority of the State of Michigan, vested in the Board of Trustees, I hereby confer upon you the appropriate degrees indicated in your programs with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities appertaining thereto.

Please be seated."

(Provost Greene introduces Deans)

Provost Greene: "Will Dean Kay Palan, Haworth College of Business, please come forward."

Dean Palan: "Will those receiving a Bachelor's degree through the Haworth College of Business please rise.

President Dunn, it is my pleasure to present these candidates who have completed all requirements for the Bachelor's degree as prescribed by the faculty of this College.

Please be seated."

Provost Greene: "Will Dean Margaret Merrion, College of Fine Arts, please come forward."

Dean Merrion: "Will those receiving a Bachelor's degree through the College of Fine Arts please rise.

President Dunn, it is my pleasure to present these candidates who have completed all requirements for

the Bachelor's degree as prescribed by the faculty of this College.

Please be seated.”

(Provost Greene introduces Dean Washington and returns to his seat.)

Provost Greene: “Will Dean Earlie Washington, College of Health and Human Services, please come forward.”

Dean Washington: “Will those receiving a Bachelor's degree through the College of Health and Human Services please rise.

President Dunn, it is my pleasure to present these candidates who have completed all requirements for the Bachelor's degree as prescribed by the faculty of this College.

Please be seated.”

President Dunn: “Will all those receiving a Bachelor’s degree rise once again please.

By the authority of the State of Michigan, vested in the Board of Trustees, I hereby confer upon you the appropriate degrees indicated in your programs with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities appertaining thereto.

Please be seated.”

PRESENTATION OF DOCTORAL DIPLOMAS (NAMES ANNOUNCED)

President Dunn: "Will the doctoral candidates from the College of Health and Human Services please come forward as Dean Susan Stapleton of the Graduate College, announces their names.

Trustee Larry Tolbert and the graduates' advisors will place the hoods on the shoulders of these doctoral graduates." (PAUSE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE AS GRADUATES COME TO STAGE)

(President Dunn and Trustee Tolbert to diploma table and Dean Stapleton to podium. Dean Stapleton will call candidates/advisors forward. She will indicate the candidates by name and announce their degrees. President Dunn will present labeled diplomas on diploma table. Trustee Tolbert and advisors will place hoods on shoulders of doctoral graduates.

College of Health and Human Services

Barbara J. Baker
Shannon Locke McMorrow

PRESENTATION OF MASTER'S DIPLOMAS (NAMES ANNOUNCED)

Provost Greene: "Will the graduates receiving Master's degrees please come forward to receive their diplomas as

Ms. Michele McLaughlin and Dr. David Little
announce their names." (PAUSE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE AS GRADUATES COME TO STAGE)

(Ms. McLaughlin and Dr. Little will go to microphone at rear of platform.
Deans Palan and Merrion will assist President Dunn with the presentation
of diplomas.)

PRESENTATION OF UNDERGRADUATE DIPLOMAS (NAMES ANNOUNCED)

Provost Greene: "Will the graduates receiving Bachelor's degrees
please come forward to receive their diplomas as
their names are announced by Ms. McLaughlin and
Dr. Little."

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE AS GRADUATES COME TO STAGE)

(Deans Palan and Merrion will assist President Dunn with the presentation
of diplomas.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INDUCTION

President Dunn: "Will Mr. Philip Chludzinski [Clue-GIN-ski], President
of the Alumni Association, please come forward.
Mr. Chludzinski, C.P.A., is a partner in Brink, Key
and Chludzinski, P.C."

(President Dunn returns to his seat and Mr. Chludzinski to the podium)

Mr. Chludzinski: REMARKS

(Mr. Chludzinski returns to his seat and President Dunn returns to podium.)

President Dunn: “Thank you, Phil.”

CONCLUDING REMARKS

President Dunn:

“Graduates, this is a commencement ceremony. Commencement, by definition, is a beginning, not an ending. We are celebrating today what is ahead of you--what you will achieve now that you are a graduate of this great University. I am optimistic that you have the “right stuff” to make a difference in your personal life and our greater society.

You are now alumni and ambassadors. Your every accomplishment will reflect for your families, employers and community, just how valuable a true university education is. You are well prepared for your first job or for graduate school, certainly, but I am confident that what you've learned at WMU has prepared you for a lifetime of professional, civic and personal achievements that you may not yet even imagine.

Many of you already realize that some of the most valuable lessons you've learned here are the result of the broad range of classes and experiences we built into your degree requirements. You know firsthand the benefits of being technically prepared in your field but also being able to view your discipline through the lens of history, philosophy and literature. I'm confident that what you learned at this University has prepared you well to match your skills with a range of roles--now and for many years to come. Please remember that the word “vocation” comes from Latin, *vocatio*, which means a calling —something for which you have passion.

You see, the true import of a university is not its size, nor wealth, nor status or ranking, but rather the kind of graduate it produces. For Western

Michigan University, this means graduates who are well educated, technically competent AND who possess the traits of civility, courtesy and respect for all. It also means graduates who are ethical, moral and committed to the betterment of society.

I hope you will always remember your experiences here and become advocates for the kind of broad-based education that keeps you learner centered, discovery driven and globally engaged throughout your lives. If you do, we—the faculty and I—believe you will add immeasurably to the well being of our world.

We'll be watching proudly as you carve out your career and make your contributions. There are still many lessons about life you will confront. Not all days will be pleasant. When tough days arise, and they will, remember Winston Churchill's advice: "If you are going through hell, keep going!" Churchill also reminded his citizens during the second World War that when days seem overwhelming – "Keep Calm and Carry On". I look at that slogan every morning when I head downstairs to begin the day with a workout – the reminder has served me well.

Keep calm. Bring a sense of order and civility to your life, and that sense of calm and tolerance will radiate and impact your world in ways that may surprise you. One lesson I hope you learned during your days at Western Michigan University is that people--all people--matter. A quick scan of world news will tell you that nothing is more needed than to appreciate the qualities others bring to our world—to respect their hopes and dreams, even while we embrace, nurture and hold fast to our own beliefs and aspirations."

I recently ran across this quote from President Franklin Roosevelt. Written 75 years ago, it continues to resonate.

"Today, we are faced with the pre-eminent fact that, if civilization is to survive and continue, we must cultivate the science of human relationships—the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together in the same world, at peace."

As you step out into our world as a WMU graduate, please be a teacher. Share the knowledge you have gained here to enrich the lives of those around you. Apply your insight and talents to society's challenges and help others to achieve. While I ask you to be a teacher, I want even more that you remain a student... for the rest of your life. Stay eager to learn. Read more than one perspective, listen carefully for the wisdom of others, reach beyond what you know for new possibilities, and before making any big decision, do your homework! In short, aspire to be a life-long learner.

You are now alumni of this great University, and we want you to stay connected. We need your help in preparing the next generation of professionals. You are partners in this endeavor and we, the faculty and I, want you to know that you will always be a part of us. Stay connected, stay tuned and stay in touch.

Go Broncos!

And now, please enjoy the slide presentation prepared for you and remember the good times, the people, places and things from your years here at Western Michigan University."

(Slide Show- Music by Professor Steve Zegree)

President Dunn: "In closing, I would like to announce that following the ceremony the alumni association is hosting a congratulatory reception in Brown Hall for all graduates and their families to enjoy these final moments on campus. Be sure to stop by.

There are many people who work very hard to make this commencement ceremony meaningful and memorable for you.

Thank you to Andrew Miller and the brothers of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia; Professor Steve Wolfinbarger

and the Western Brass Ensemble; Professor Steve Zegree, pianist for the slide production; the commencement committee; and the many people who work behind the scenes and contribute so much to our commencement.

And finally graduates, thank you for all that you have given to us and for all that you will be giving to society in the years to come. Make your mark on this world, fulfill your dreams and always remember those who helped to make this all possible for you!

May you enjoy happiness, peace, and health.

At this time the Brothers of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia will present the Alma Mater of Western Michigan University. After their performance, the Alma Mater will be repeated, at which time, all of you are invited to sing. Please rise for the Alma Mater and remain standing until the platform party leaves the stage.”

ALMA MATER

Western, we sing to you Brown and Gold
Western, we bring to you faith untold,
You challenge and inspire,
Your hope is our desire,
We sing to you our Alma Mater, Brown and Gold

RECESSIONAL

The Western Brass Ensemble

(President Dunn and Chair Johnston lead to march off stage.)